

Melanolycaena altimontana SIBATANI from Sepik? (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae)

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MURAYAMA (1978) recorded a male of *Melanolycaena altimontana* SIBATANI, 1974 from "Maripok, West Sepik, Papua New Guinea" and stated, "West Sepik is on the northern coast, and by no means as high [sic] in altitude. It is interesting that this species occurs also in lowland."

Mr. T. L. FENNER, Department of Primary Industry, Papua New Guinea (PNG), has, upon my request, kindly checked the locality Maripok but found no such name in the latest PNG Gazetteer (1974). Nor has he obtained any enlightenment from Mr. P. CLARK, a lepidopterist and resident for several years of both East and West Sepik, about this locality name. It is also difficult to find possible alternative spellings, although Maprik (about 300 m), East Sepik Province, may readily come into mind of many. West Sepik Province extends from the northern coast to the Star Mountains of the Great Divide, rising as high as nearly 4,000 m.

Therefore, until information about the co-ordinates (see SIBATANI & GRUND, 1978 for examples) and altitude of Maripok becomes available, I will not accept MURAYAMA's record of this species either as from West Sepik Province or as from lowland. Even with such data, authenticity of the record needs to be confirmed with additional specimens and observations on food plants and general habitat in order to establish the distribution of this subalpine species extending to lowlands.

The illustration of the specimen indicates its resemblance to subsp. *microgyris* SIBATANI, 1974 from Eastern Highlands on the upperside of the hindwing, and its genitalia should be examined to establish whether they agree with those of the same subspecies, which are quite distinct from those of the nominate subspecies from the Hagen Range of Western Highland Province.

I take this opportunity to make some corrections and additions to my previous paper on *Melanolycaena*.

SIBATANI (1974): Corrigenda

- p. 97 line 4. Read—*thecloides* for "*techloides*".
- p. 99 caption to fig. 11. Read—female for "male".
- p. 102 line 7 from bottom. Read—*Titea* for "*Tifea*".
- p. 103 between lines 4 and 5 from bottom. Insert—

Distribution

The Bismarck Range, 2,400–3,000 m, Eastern Highlands, Chimbu and Madang Districts, Papua New Guinea, from May to October. In ANIC there is a specimen of somewhat doubtful identity because of its extremely poor condition, collected by E. T. GILLIARD at 2,900 m, Mt Wilhelm, on 15th June 1950.

- p. 105 line 11 from bottom. Read—Tororo for “Tololo”.
- p. 106 line 15 from bottom. Read—between for “beneath”.
- p. 107 line 41. Read—extinct for “distinct”.
- p. 109 line 22 should read—(OBERTHÜR), *irmae* (BAILEY)]; West China and Tibet.
 line 25. Read—(WHITE); for “(WHITE)”:.
- line 39. Read—comb. n.; [*splendens* for “comb. n., *splendens*”].
- line 40. Read—comb. n., *standfussi* for “comb. n.; [*standfussi*]”.
- p. 110 line 5. Read—Le CONTE [1833]: for “Le CONTE:”.

Addenda

M. altimontana microgyris SIBATANI

Additional records: 1 ♂ “No. 6 Pengagl [sic] Camp east slopes Mt Wilhelm 2,770 [m] vi. 29. [—] vii 31. 1959 Eastern Highlands District L. J. BRASS Coll. Sixth Archbold Expedition to Papua New Guinea” in American Museum Natural History, New York; 2 specimens (subspecific identity still to be confirmed) Bogo near Kerowagi, about 3,000 m, Chimbu Province, 10. viii. 1977 in the collection of J. JOBE.

M. theolooides SIBATANI

The type locality, Bome, is on the western bank of the Loloipa River as is the present village of Bome, rather than at Goilala as indicated by Bishop Museum (1966).

The kind help of the following colleagues is heartily acknowledged: W. W. BRANDT, Sydney; T. L. FENNER, Konedobu, PNG; J. JOBE, PNG—U. K.; F. H. RINDGE, New York; D. P. SANDS, Brisbane.

References

- MURAYAMA, S., 1978. On some species of Rhopalocera from Southeast Asia with descriptions of a new species and a new subspecies. *Tyō to Ga* **29**: 153–158.
- SIBATANI, A., 1974. A new genus for two new species of Lycaeninae (s. str.) (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae) from Papua New Guinea. *J. Aust. ent. Soc.* **13**: 95–110.
- SIBATANI, A. & R. B. GRUND, 1978. A revision of the *Theclinesthes onycha* complex (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae). *Tyō to Ga* **29**, 1–34.

要 約

村山 (1978) が本誌に報告した、パプアニューギニアの高地性ベニシジミの1種 *Melanolycaena altimontana* SIBATANI, 1974 が West Sepik の低地に産するという記録は、採集地“Maripok”的所在と高度が確定できないためこのままでは採用できない。この種の報告は産地国での情報入手につとめてから発表すべきで、それは十分に可能なのであるが、上記の記録に関する限り、筆者の努力によつては、産地の“同定”はできなかった。なお柴谷 (1974) の原記載を含む論文への追加訂正をつけ加えた。

(柴谷篤弘)